

CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOLICHUCKY RIVER WATERSHED

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2.1. BACKGROUND. The Nolichucky River is a major stream draining the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. The stream was impounded in 1912 when Nolichucky Dam was built near Greenville, Tennessee. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) operated it for electrical power purposes until the 1970s until the degree of siltation of the reservoir, called Davy Crockett Lake, had made continued efforts to operate the facility for hydroelectric purposes impractical. The agency retired the dam as a power source but continues to maintain it and to use it for flood control and recreational purposes. The Nolichucky is considered to be a historic stream in Tennessee, and the state's first governor, John Sevier, was known by the nickname "Nolichucky Jack", a reference to this stream.

This Chapter describes the location and characteristics of the Nolichucky River Watershed.

2.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WATERSHED.

2.2.A. General Location. The Nolichucky River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.

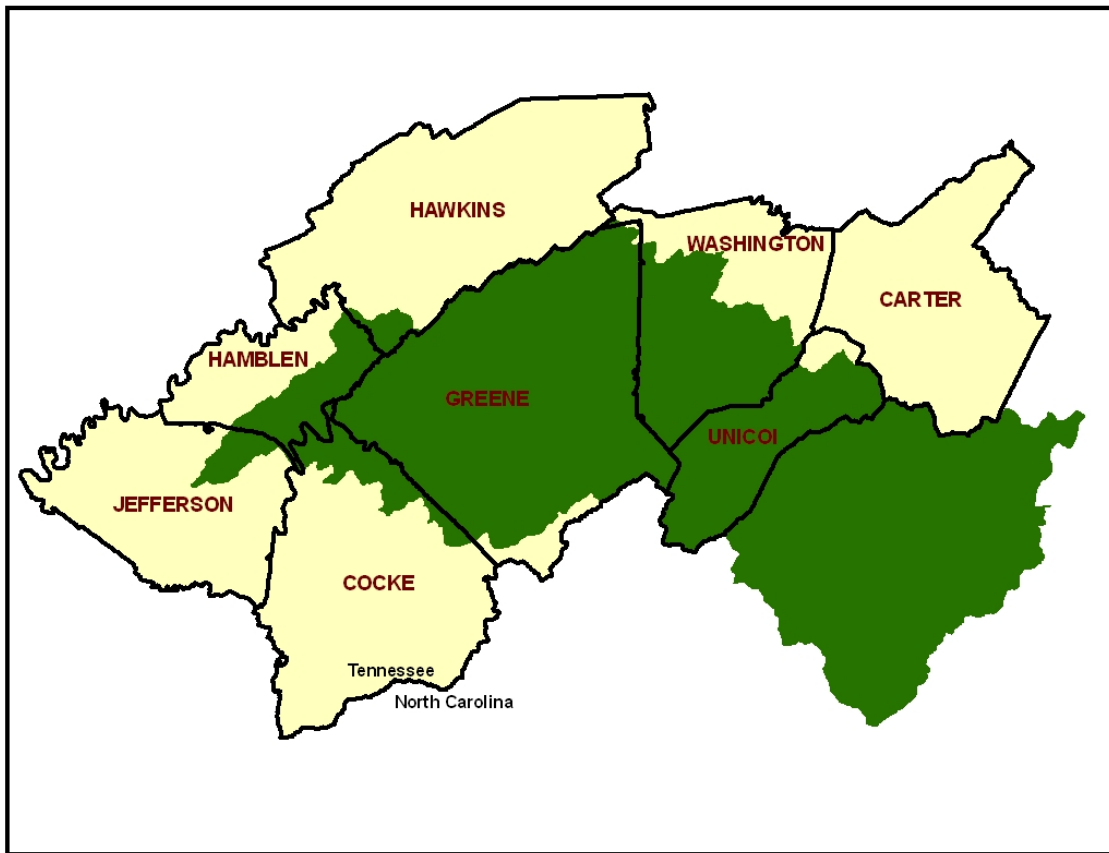


Figure 2-1. General Location of the Nolichucky River Watershed.

COUNTY	% OF WATERSHED IN EACH COUNTY
Greene	52.91
Washington	17.07
Unicoi	15.17
Hamblen	5.99
Cocke	5.08
Jefferson	2.11
Hawkins	1.42

Table 2-1. The Nolichucky River Watershed Includes Parts of Eight East Tennessee Counties.

2.2.B. Population Density Centers. Two Interstates and twenty-eight highways serve the major communities in the Nolichucky River Watershed.

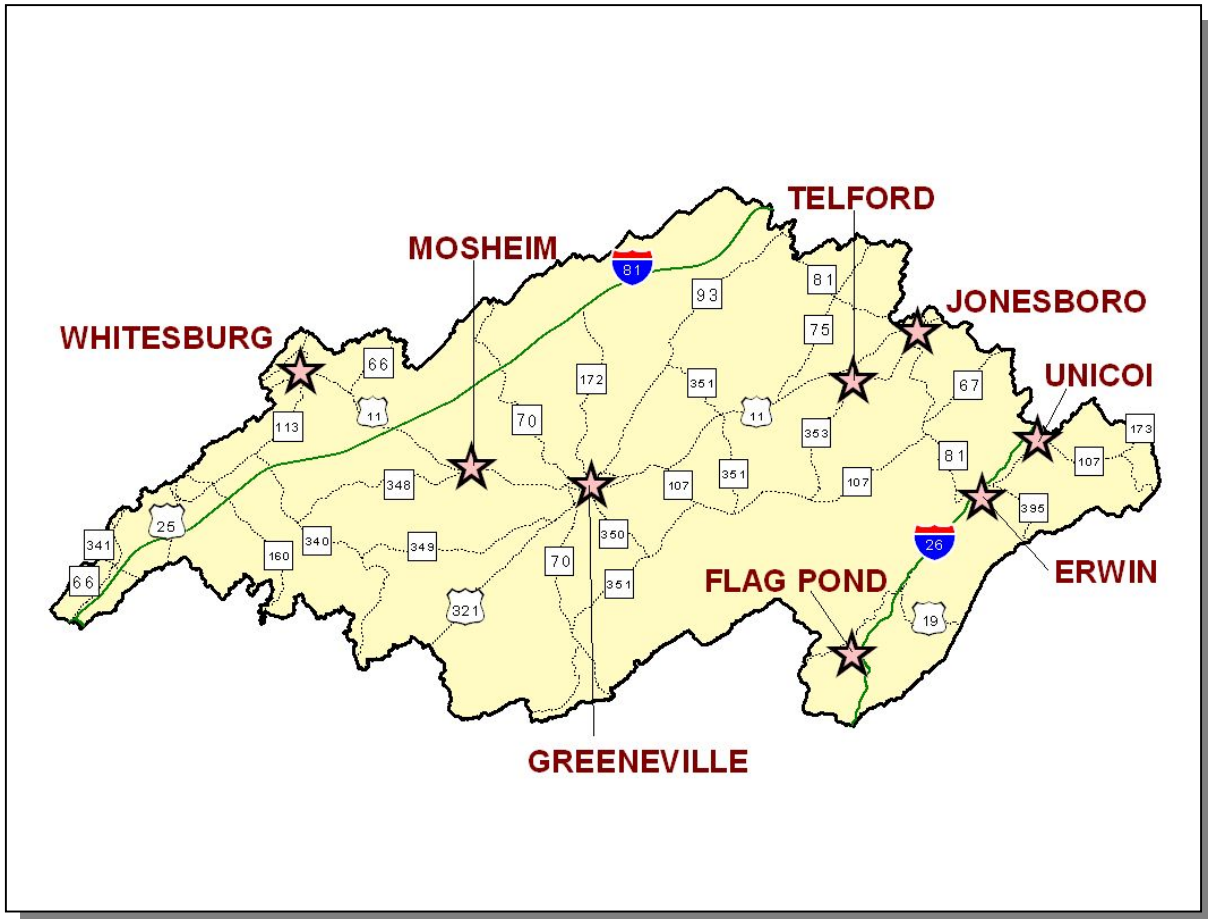


Figure 2-2. Communities and Roads in the Nolichucky River Watershed.

MUNICIPALITY	POPULATION	COUNTY
Greeneville *	15,274	Greene
Erwin*	5,610	Unicoi
Jonesboro*	4,168	Washington
Unicoi	3,519	Unicoi
Whitesburg	3,211	Hamblen
Telford	3,017	Washington
Mosheim	1,749	Greene
Flag Pond	867	Unicoi

Table 2-2. Municipalities in the Nolichucky River Watershed. Population based on 2000 census (Tennessee Blue Book) or <http://www.hometownlocator.com>. Asterisk (*) indicates county seat.

2.3. GENERAL HYDROLOGIC DESCRIPTION.

2.3.A. Hydrology. The Nolichucky River Watershed, designated 06010106 by the USGS, is approximately 1,128 square miles and drains to the Nolichucky River.



Figure 2-3. The Nolichucky River Watershed is Part of the Tennessee River Basin.

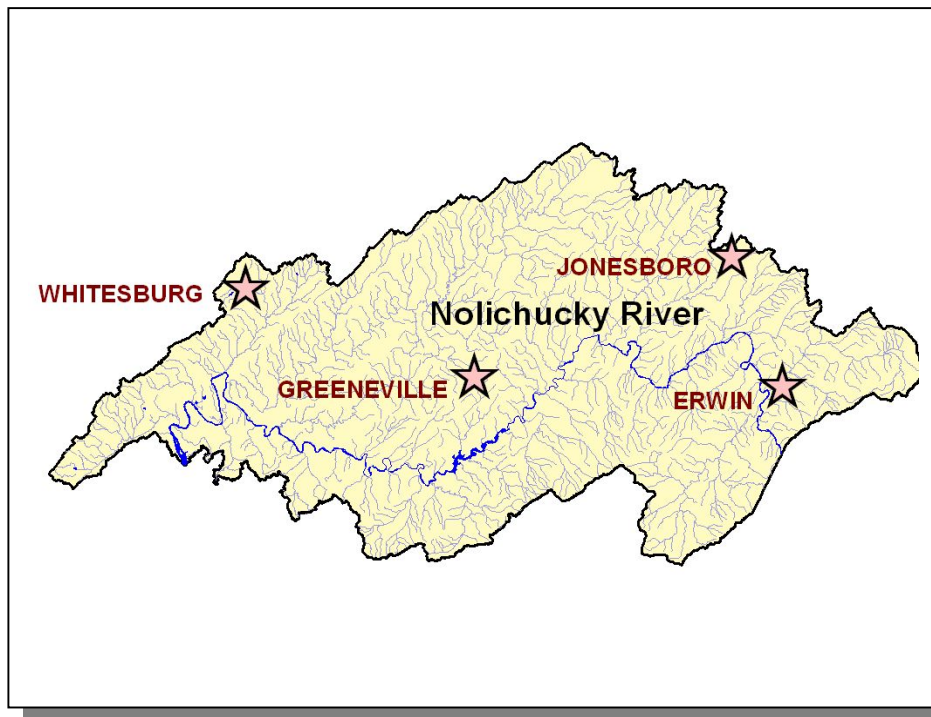


Figure 2-4. Hydrology in the Nolichucky River Watershed. There are 1,915.4 stream miles and 383 lake acres recorded in River Reach File 3 in the Nolichucky River Watershed. Location of the Nolichucky River and the cities of Erwin, Greeneville, Jonesboro, and Whitesburg are shown for reference.

2.3.B. Dams. There are 10 dams inventoried by TDEC Division of Water Supply in the Nolichucky River Watershed. These dams either retain 30 acre-feet of water or have structures at least 20 feet high.

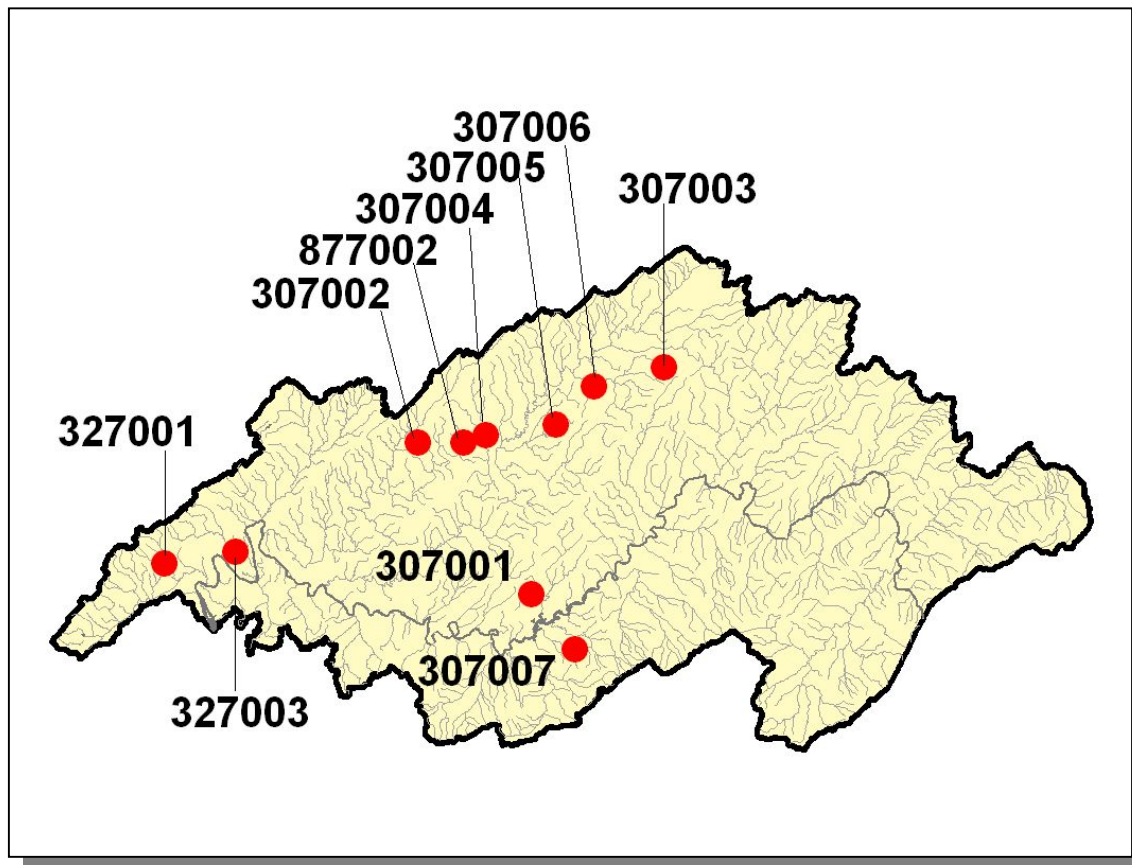


Figure 2-5. Location of Inventoried Dams in the Nolichucky River Watershed. More information, including identification of inventoried dams labeled, is provided in Appendix II and at <http://gwidc.memphis.edu/website/dams/viewer.htm>.